

**Submission  
No 247**

## **INQUIRY INTO DENTAL SERVICES IN NSW**

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**Date Received:** 31/08/2005

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**Theme:**

**Summary**

**Annual Adult Health Checks & Healthy Kids Checks**

- Annual health checks screening “well” populations. Menindee in February this year, Ivanhoe August this year. Dental screening occurs during the health checks.
- Menindee screened around 200 people:

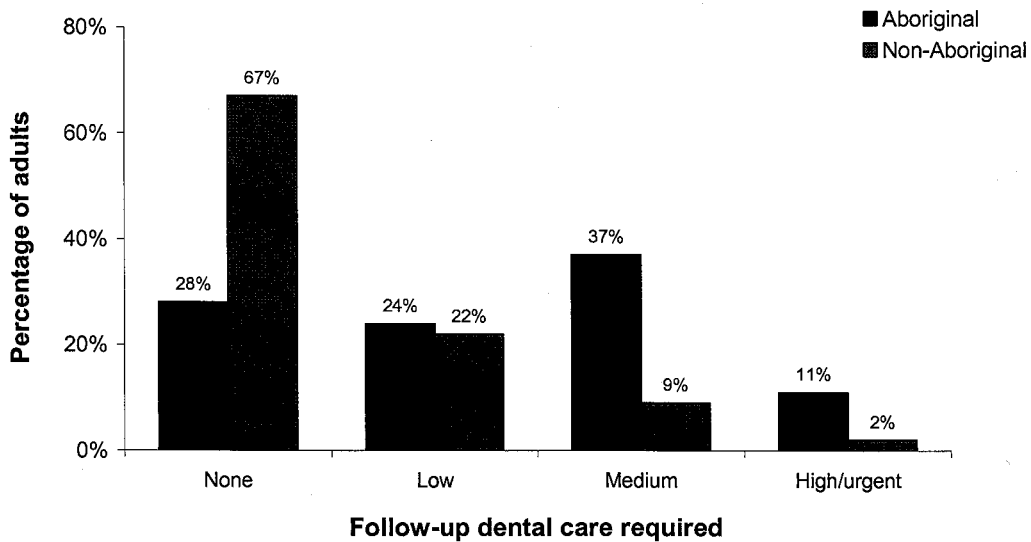
**Need for dental treatment post Menindee annual adult health check**

The need for dental treatment was assessed for each person who had his or her teeth checked. The categories for dental treatment are outlined below as well as the number of people in each category:

Category	Need for dental treatment	No. of people
None	No dental problems—to have a routine dental check within 12 months	93
Low	Very minor dental problems—to see a dentist within 6 months	45
Medium	Some dental problems—to see a dentist within 4-8 weeks	41
High	High levels of dental decay and/or widespread gum disease and/or long standing low-grade infection—to see a dentist within 2-4 weeks	11
Urgent	Severe swelling or trauma to teeth or gums—to see a dentist immediately	1

The majority of people (49%, n=93) required no or low-level dental follow-up. Only 1 person required urgent dental follow-up. The level of dental follow-up was not recorded for three people.

**Follow-up dental care required by Aboriginality**



This equates to approximately 25% of people screened required dental treatment. Health promotion is a big part of dental screening

## Dental Issues Maari Ma Aboriginal Health Corporation

We (Maari Ma, RFDS, GWAHS, Justice Health, Sandra Meihubers) have managed to arrange an extra 12 days of dental care post Menindee AAHC. There are still 20 people waiting for follow-up. There are many issues related to successful treatment – travel certainly being one of them

In the next 12 months there will be health checks in the following communities:

- Menindee – approximately 200 adults and 100 kids
- Wilcannia – approximately 150 adults and 80 kids
- White Cliffs – approximately 80 adults and 30 kids
- Balranald – approximately 200 adults and 100 kids
- Dareton – approximately 200 adults and 100 kids
- Tibooburra – 80 adults and 30 kids

Total of 1300 people – 25% of 1300 = 325 people will require dental follow-up in the next 12 months

### **General issues**

- Broken Hill fluoridated but not small communities
- need populations sizes of communities services by MM (B Hill, Menindee, Ivanhoe, Wilcannia, Dareton, Balranald etc)
- Small numbers dental personnel (related to populations and distances):  
Broken Hill: 3 private dentists, Barrier Dental with occasional dentists, very little access to public dental care (no adult public dental clinic, weekly clinics provided by RFDS dentist at Morgan St school dental clinic)
  - RFDS dentist provides twice monthly visits to MM dental clinic
  - currently no dental therapist (maternity leave)

Dareton / Wentworth / Balranald: 1 FTE dental therapist

Balranald: 1 dentist

- RFDS dentist provides rostered services to remote communities including upper western sector; difficult to get beyond emergency care and some restorative; virtually no denture work
- “incomplete” dental clinics in BH, Wilcannia, Ivanhoe; equipment but no surgery in Dareton (still “incomplete”); creates dependency on RFDS dentist, not possible to employ independently.....need to develop travelling dental kit to supplement “incomplete” clinics
- Emergency and treatment focussed, no primary care or oral health promotion, particularly no Indigenous related oral health education material

Dental Issues Maari Ma Aboriginal Health Corporation

- Recent visit by Justice Health dental locum, required good cooperation between GWAHS dental program and Maari Ma; again, difficulty in having no independently functioning dental clinic.

**Dental Data**

DMFT = numbers of decayed, missing, filled teeth (due to dental decay) in permanent teeth

dmft = numbers of decayed, missing, filled primary ("baby" teeth)

	<b>DMFT 11-13 yrs</b>	<b>dmft 5-6 yrs</b>
<b>Walgett</b> - Indigenous - all kids	5 times NSW non-Ind. average 4 x NSW non-Ind. average	8 times NSW non-Ind. average 8 x NSW non-Ind. average
<b>Bourke</b> - Indigenous - all kids	6 x non-Ind. average 5 x non-Ind. average	7 x non-Ind. average 5 x non-Ind. average
<b>Wilcannia</b> - Indigenous - all kids	2.5 x non-Ind. average 2 x non-Ind. average	7 x non-Ind. average 6 x non-Ind. average

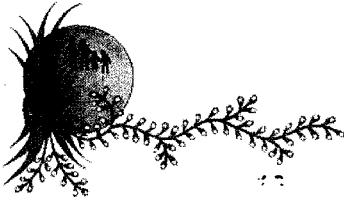
- ie very high levels of dental caries, preventable

**Adults**

- there are no state averages to compare DMF with

**Where to**

- Focus on primary health care especially kids: on the ground primary care teams, early detection and screening, tooth brushing programs in schools  
ie reference to Healthy Start program and Maari Ma's Chronic Disease Strategy
- Develop appropriate oral health promotion strategies including relevant oral health information resources
- Establish travelling dental kit of instruments and materials, to enable opportunities of hiring dentists / locums independently
- Explore feasibility of fluoridating towns with populations large enough for cost effectiveness ie >1000 population.
- Lack of research into best practice dental care for remote / Indigenous communities?



**MAARI MA ANNUAL ADULT HEALTH CHECK DATASHEET**

<b>SURNAME:</b> ..... <b>GIVEN NAMES:</b> ..... <b>DATE OF BIRTH:</b> ..... / ..... / ..... <b>SEX:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female <b>ADDRESS:</b> ..... <b>TELEPHONE:</b> ( ..... ) .....		<b>INDIGENOUS STATUS:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal <input type="checkbox"/> TSI <input type="checkbox"/> Both <input type="checkbox"/> Neither <input type="checkbox"/> Not Stated <b>FAMILY HISTORY:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Stroke <input type="checkbox"/> Diabetes <input type="checkbox"/> Heart Disease	<i>Indigenous</i>  <i>non-Indigenous</i>  <i>Family Hx</i> Y/N
<b>MEDICAL HISTORY:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Diabetes <input type="checkbox"/> Hypertension <input type="checkbox"/> Kidney Disease <input type="checkbox"/> Chronic Lung Disease <input type="checkbox"/> Diabetes in Pregnancy <input type="checkbox"/> High Cholesterol <input type="checkbox"/> Asthma <input type="checkbox"/> Heart Disease		<i>Vascular Hx</i> Y/N	
<b>CURRENT MEDICATIONS:</b>			
<b>NAME</b>	<b>DOSE</b>	<b>FREQUENCY</b>	

<b>LIFESTYLE:</b>			
<b>SMOKING:</b> Do you smoke / still smoke? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> I have quit How do you feel about your smoking? <input type="checkbox"/> NOT planning on quitting <input type="checkbox"/> Thinking about quitting <input type="checkbox"/> I am planning on quitting		<b>ALCOHOL:</b>    	
Action	Date	Action	Date
<b>NUTRITION:</b> How much fruit did you eat in the last 24 hours? ..... <input type="checkbox"/> Enough <input type="checkbox"/> Not Enough How many vegetables did you eat in the last 24 hours? ..... <input type="checkbox"/> Enough <input type="checkbox"/> Not Enough		<b>PHYSICAL ACTIVITY:</b> Did you do any physical activity in the last week? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No How many days did you do physical activity? ..... <input type="checkbox"/> Enough <input type="checkbox"/> Not Enough	
Action	Date	Action	Date

<b>WOMEN'S HEALTH:</b>		
<b>LAST PAP SMEAR:</b> .....		<i>Refer WHN</i> Y/N
<b>LAST MAMMOGRAM:</b> .....		<i>Refer Mammogram</i> Y/N

<b>ANTHROPOMETRY:</b>			
<b>HEIGHT:</b> ..... (m)	<b>WEIGHT:</b> ..... (kg)	<b>BMI:</b> .....	
<b>WAIST:</b> ..... (cm)	<b>HIPS:</b> ..... (cm)	<b>WHR:</b> .....	<i>Refer Dietician</i> Y/N

<b>PHYSICAL ASSESSMENT:</b>			
<b>BP:</b> ..... / .....	<b>HEART RATE:</b> ..... bpm	<i>Regular / Irregular</i>	<i>Refer GP</i> Y/N



<p>Provide access to regular oral health check ups in Wilcannia, Menindee and Ivanhoe.</p>	<p>Establish a regional child oral health team comprising a dental therapist and Aboriginal dental assistant.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Make agreement with the GWAHS for the team to work within the NSW Child Dental Program.</li> <li>• Recruit to the positions.</li> <li>• Arrange training for the dental assistant.</li> <li>• Orientate the team to the region and the role.</li> </ul>	<p>PHCTL</p>	<p>Jun 06</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Team recruited.</li> <li>• Training for dental assistant organised</li> <li>• Service commenced in communities.</li> </ul>	
<p>Provide access to preventative oral health care in all communities</p>	<p>Develop a prevention program that can be delivered by local primary health care teams</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engage the public health dentist to advise on the program.</li> <li>• Map out the program.</li> <li>• Train local staff</li> <li>• Implement program in conjunction with other Healthy Start activities.</li> </ul>	<p>PHCTL</p>	<p>Jun 06</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dentist engaged</li> <li>• Program developed</li> <li>• Staff trained</li> <li>• Program implemented</li> </ul>	
<p>Promote healthy eating</p>	<p>Continue to roll out the existing child nutrition initiatives in Menindee, Ivanhoe and Broken Hill as per grant from 'Smart Dudes Eat Good Food' program.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide fresh fruit at recess at Menindee</li> <li>• Provide fresh fruit and bottled water for indigenous children on Sports Day at BH primary school.</li> </ul>	<p>AHC</p>	<p>Jun 06</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fresh fruit provided at recess at Menindee</li> <li>• Fresh fruit and bottled water for indigenous children on Sports Days in BH</li> </ul>	
<p>Provide dietitian support for the Healthy Start program</p>	<p>Engage a dietitian to work with the Healthy Start CNC and the Oral Health team to drive the child nutrition programs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recruit a dietitian</li> <li>• Orientate dietitian to the CDS and Healthy Start program</li> <li>• Engage dietitian in the development of the Healthy Start programs</li> <li>• Begin planning for the Tooty Fruity Veg Program to be introduced in BH, Menindee, Ivanhoe</li> </ul>	<p>PHCTL Healthy Start CNC</p>	<p>Sep 05 Jun 06</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dietitian recruited</li> <li>• Nutrition programs in place</li> </ul>	